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## THE OFFER OF CANADA.

This Government is desirous to propose a joint commission such as that of 1871, with authority to deal without limitation and to prepare a treaty respecting the following subjects: First, renewal of the reciprocity treaty of 1854 with the modifications required by the altered circumstances of both countries, and with the extension deemed by the Commissioner to be in the interests of Canada and the United States; second, reconsideration of treaty 88 with respect to the Atlantic fisheries, with the aim of securing free admission into the United States markets of Canadian fisheries products in return for facilities to be granted to United States fishermen to buy bait and supplies and tranship cargoes in Canada, all such privileges to be mutual; third, the protection of the mackerel and other fisheries of the Atlantic Ocean and inland waters also; fourth, relaxation of the seaboard coasting laws of the two countries; fifth, relaxation of the coasting laws of the two countries on the inland waters dividing Canada from the United States; sixth, mutual salvage and saving of wrecked vessels; seventh, arrangements for settling the boundary between Canada and Alaska. The treaty would, of course, be *ad referendum*.

[Why not accept this as a basis of negotiation? The offer seems to us fair and reciprocal. The British Government must, of course, ratify any arrangement entered into by Canada.—Ed.]

## THE SUPREME COURT.

The Supreme Court of the United States has been appealed to by Canadians on the Seal question. It decides that it has jurisdiction.

The questions upon which Mr. Blaine lays stress in his contention in behalf of the United States as to *Behring Sea*, namely, that for the general public good Great Britain ought to recognize the right of the United States to protect the seal, and further, that Great Britain had acknowledged, by acquiescence, the right of Russia over this sea, are no part of the cases submitted to the court. Therefore, if the court should decide the question of law against the United States, these questions would still remain for negotiation.

A satisfactory settlement on these points might be reached, with the technical law question once disposed of.

## CAPT. WALLACE'S BRAVERY.

A letter from Pine Ridge Agency details some hitherto unknown facts concerning the death of Captain Wallace at Wounded Knee. After the fight, the letter states, Captain Wallace was found at the entrance of an Indian lodge with five dead warriors lying near him, each Indian corpse showing a bullet wound. Five of the chambers in the Captain's revolver were found empty, and from the position in which the bodies lay it is presumed that Wallace killed the five Indians before he was overcome.—*Boston Journal*.

That is heroism according to the code of war. As a soldier whose highest duty is to kill at such a time, Captain Wallace was a hero and died nobly. But how is it according to the Christian code and weighed by the scales of humanity and divine mercy? Who would not prefer to go to God as would General Armstrong or any Christian teacher surrounded with souls he has saved rather than with those whose probation he has terminated and whose blood stains are on his hands?

## THE INDIAN SIDE.

Statement of the Indian John Grass at the Washington Conference with the Secretary of the Interior:

They had come for the purpose of conferring with the Secretary in regard to the recent trouble. The Indians, he said, did not desire to be driven back to their wild life, but wished to consult the President so as to determine upon the future. They wished, he said, to speak on certain matters talked over when the Indians were here last and the promises in regard to which were not carried out. He protested against the practice of *blaming all Indians for what was the fault of a few*. The Indians believe that if they are honest in trying to put their children into schools, and if they follow the teachings of Christianity, they would be going on the right road. The Indians regarded these as important factors and they also thought it desirable that the agents should *be civilians rather than military*. They desired a continuance of the present system in this respect. In the past, he said, the Indian agents had opportunities to steal, but now the good people in the East maintained such a close watch that it was difficult for them to adopt such practices. The agents in late years, he said, were good men. In speaking of his own reservation, that of Standing Rock, the threatened trouble had been put down by the Indian police. They believed in the Indian police, and he was requested to ask for an increase of fifty men. Grass then shook hands with the Secretary and took his seat.

## COST OF INDIAN WARS.

Statistics have been published in the daily press which show that the daily expenses of this Government since its formation in 1776, to 1886, a period of one hundred and ten years, on account of the Indians, have been upwards of *nine hundred and twenty-nine millions of dollars*, and that of this sum *six hundred and ninety-six millions* have been expended by the War Department in wars with them and expenses incident thereto. Of this enormous aggregate over *two hundred millions* are stated to have been expended in hostilities with different tribes during the ten years of 1872 to 1882; the primary cause of which, in accordance with testimony adduced, has been the rapacity and injustice of the whites.

A dispatch from Washington just before the Indian massacre said:

General Miles has orders from the President to settle the trouble without bloodshed, and the soldiers are kept from bringing on a fight when they are best prepared to do effective work.

All honor to the humane instincts and merciful course advised by the President. He should, however, have arrested and confined Sitting Bull weeks before open hostilities commenced. Then probably they never would have commenced.

An appalling explosion in a coal mine at Scottdale, Pa., sent more than one hundred lives instantly into eternity. Not one miner lived to tell the story of the disaster, and nothing is known as to the cause.

It is a relief to know that no one killed them on purpose as in war.